

Government of Bombay

PLANNING

FOR

THE FUTURE

OF

BOMBAY'S COUNTRYSIDE





(A.C.)



Government of Bombay

PLANNING

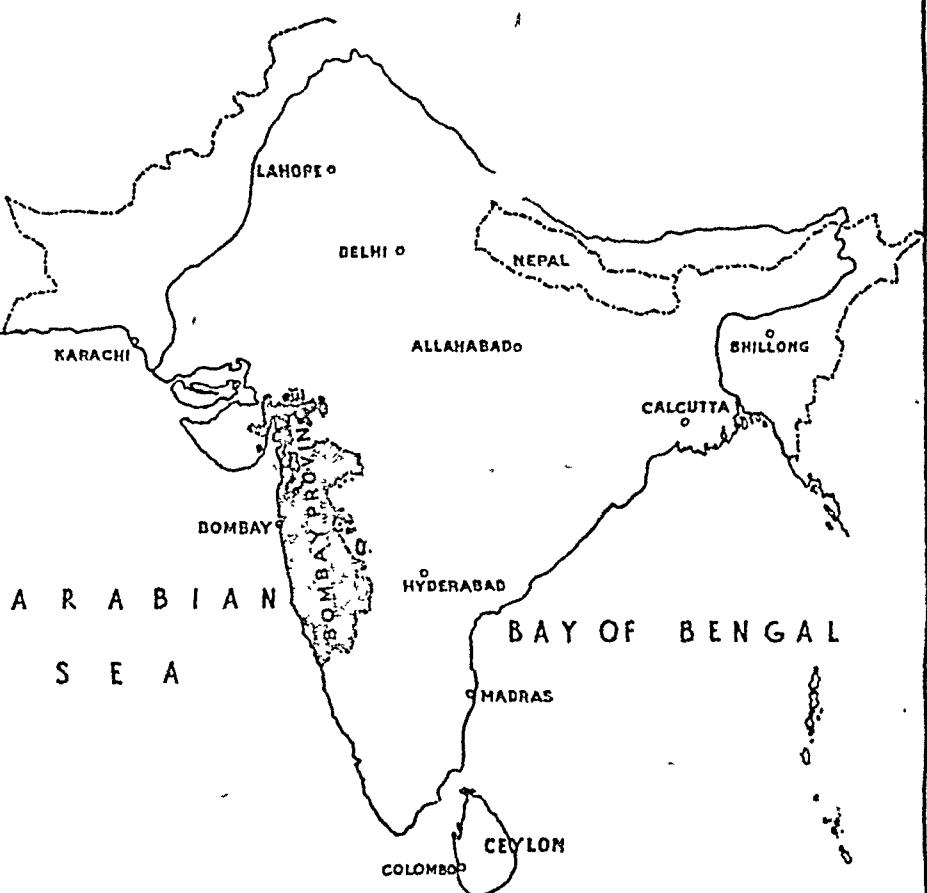
FOR

THE FUTURE

OF

BOMBAY'S COUNTRYSIDE

MAP OF INDIA



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF BOMBAY'S COUNTRYSIDE

A fifteen-year plan for post-war development of the Province is being prepared by the Government of Bombay. No plan can be altogether hard and fast. Circumstances change, Governments come and go, but, unless the Government of today looks ahead and prepares a scheme for development in the immediate post-war years, valuable time will be wasted and great opportunities lost.

The objective is to raise the economic level of the country-side, to increase the well-being of the people, while, at the same time, arranging for the resettlement of returned soldiers. The plan covers every aspect of non-industrial rural development. It embraces the fostering of home and village crafts but does not deal with large-scale industry. Industrial reconstruction is dependent on planning by the Government of India: for it India must be regarded as a whole and industries located where they can be worked most economically.

Bombay's comprehensive scheme is intended to touch rural life at every facet, and, for its efficient execution, is to be divided into three five-year periods. The first of these alone will cost in the neighbourhood of fifty crores of rupees.*

Even so, no attempt is to be made to start all the improvement projects in all parts of the Province simultaneously. Some of the schemes, catering for the more urgent and basic needs and preparing the way for more intensive improvement later, will be spread over all districts.

Others will be confined by their own nature to limited tracts. Only in selected "concentrated areas" will all practicable improvements be effected in one economic drive during the first five years. Classified, the plan falls into four categories:

(i) *Special Priority Schemes*—to be put into effect as quickly as possible to meet, to some extent, existing and post-war demands for staff.

(ii) *All-Province Schemes*—to be spread over all districts, to cater for more urgent and basic needs and to prepare the way for more intensive development.

* All figures of cost in this pamphlet are based on present prices and not on pre-war prices.

(iii) *Particular Area Schemes*—by their nature suitable for introduction only in certain areas.

(iv) *Concentrated Area Schemes*—for all-round improvement of selected areas.

There are several reasons for this classification. There are the limiting factors of available staff and finance. There is the need of guarding against wastage in the actual expenditure of the taxpayers' money—an object best achieved by having works in compact areas where they can be easily supervised by senior departmental officers. Above all, there is the wish to achieve quick and satisfying results in raising the general standard of life and so create a popular demand for the extension of the schemes to other areas.

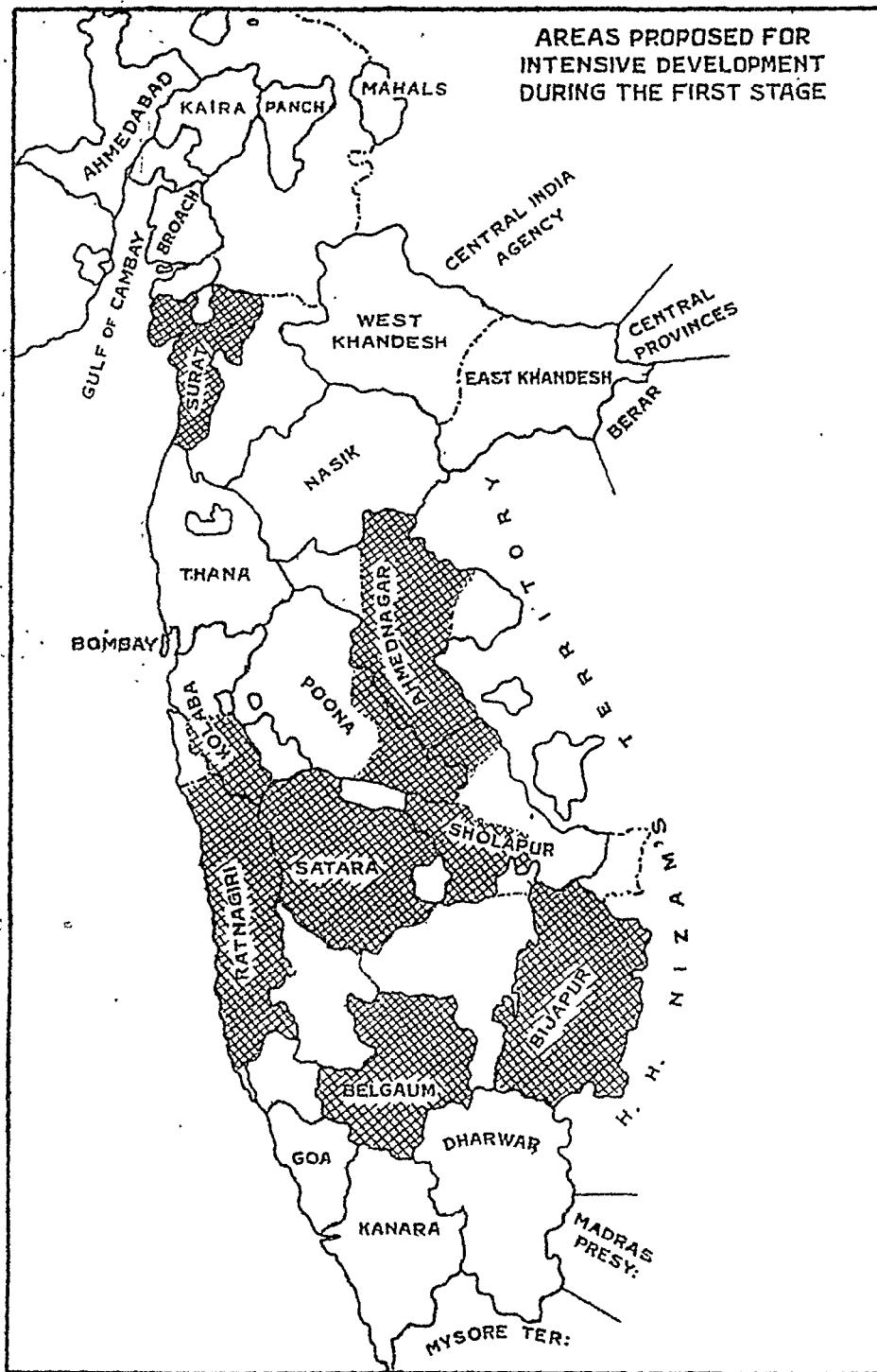
A "concentrated area," once it has emerged from the workmen's hands, should be a place of envy for its neighbours. All its district and village roads will have been built and repaired.

Concentrated Areas Water supplies will have been provided in villages and towns and the larger towns will have proper sanitation. Malaria-breeding areas will have disappeared, proper health and medical services will be functioning and there will be a veterinary dispensary in every taluka. Schools will have been built and staffed by trained teachers and there will be agricultural and technical high schools for those youths who wish to carry their studies further. Local industries and co-operative work will be encouraged. Irrigation will have been provided, land improved and protection given to areas liable to erosion.

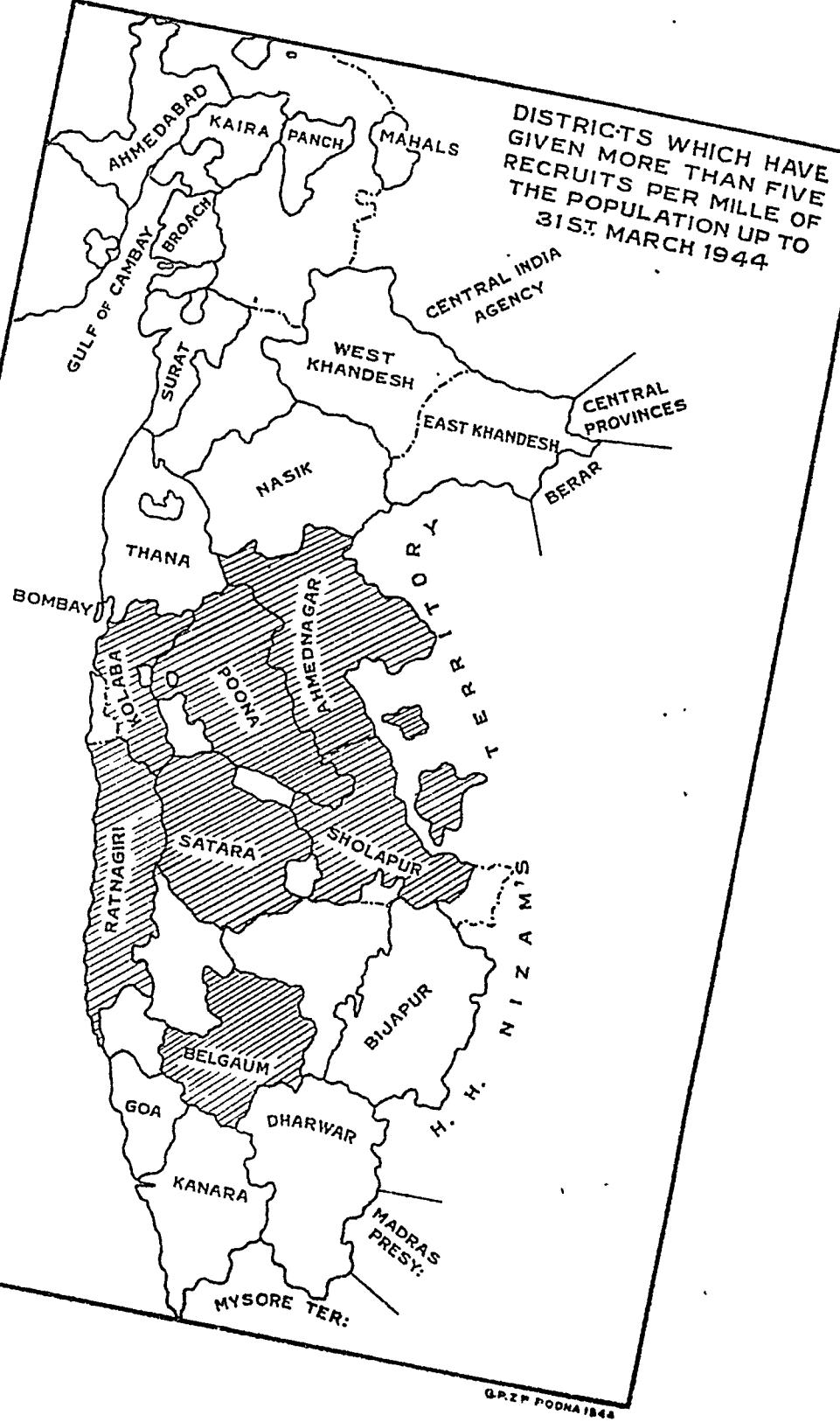
Nine districts have been taken as the target for the "concentrated areas" for the first five years. They are:—

Satara	.. All talukas.
Poona	.. Indapur taluka and Dhond and Sirur petas.
Sholapur	.. Karmala, Sangola, Malsiras and Pandharpur talukas.
Ahmednagar	.. Newasa, Kopergaon, Rahuri, Ahmednagar, Parner and Shrigonda talukas and Karjat peta.
Kolaba	.. Mahad, Mangaon and Roha talukas.
Ratnagiri	.. Whole district except Vengurla peta.
Belgaum	.. All talukas.
Bijapur	.. All talukas.
Surat	.. All talukas.

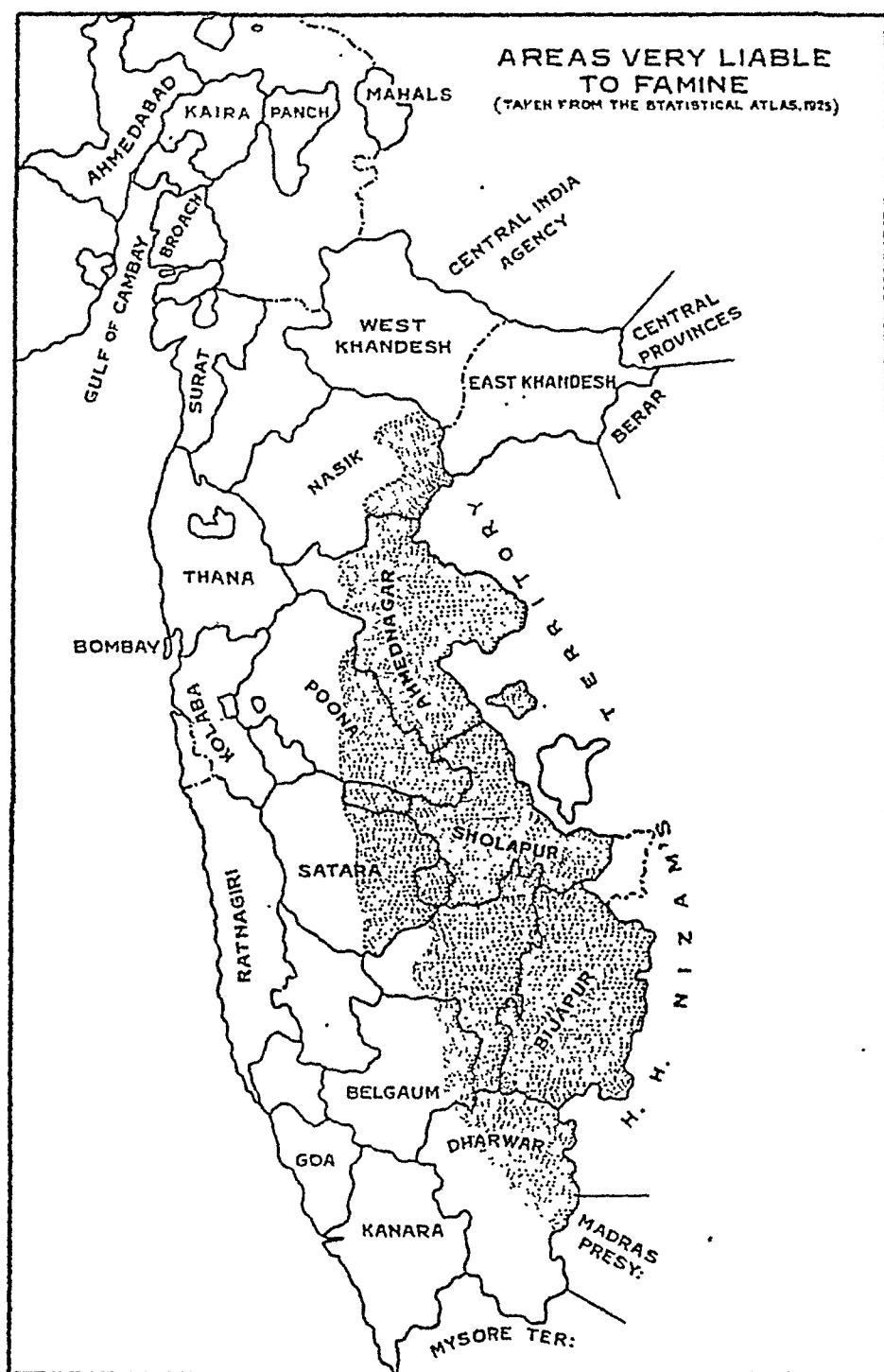
AREAS PROPOSED FOR
INTENSIVE DEVELOPMENT
DURING THE FIRST STAGE



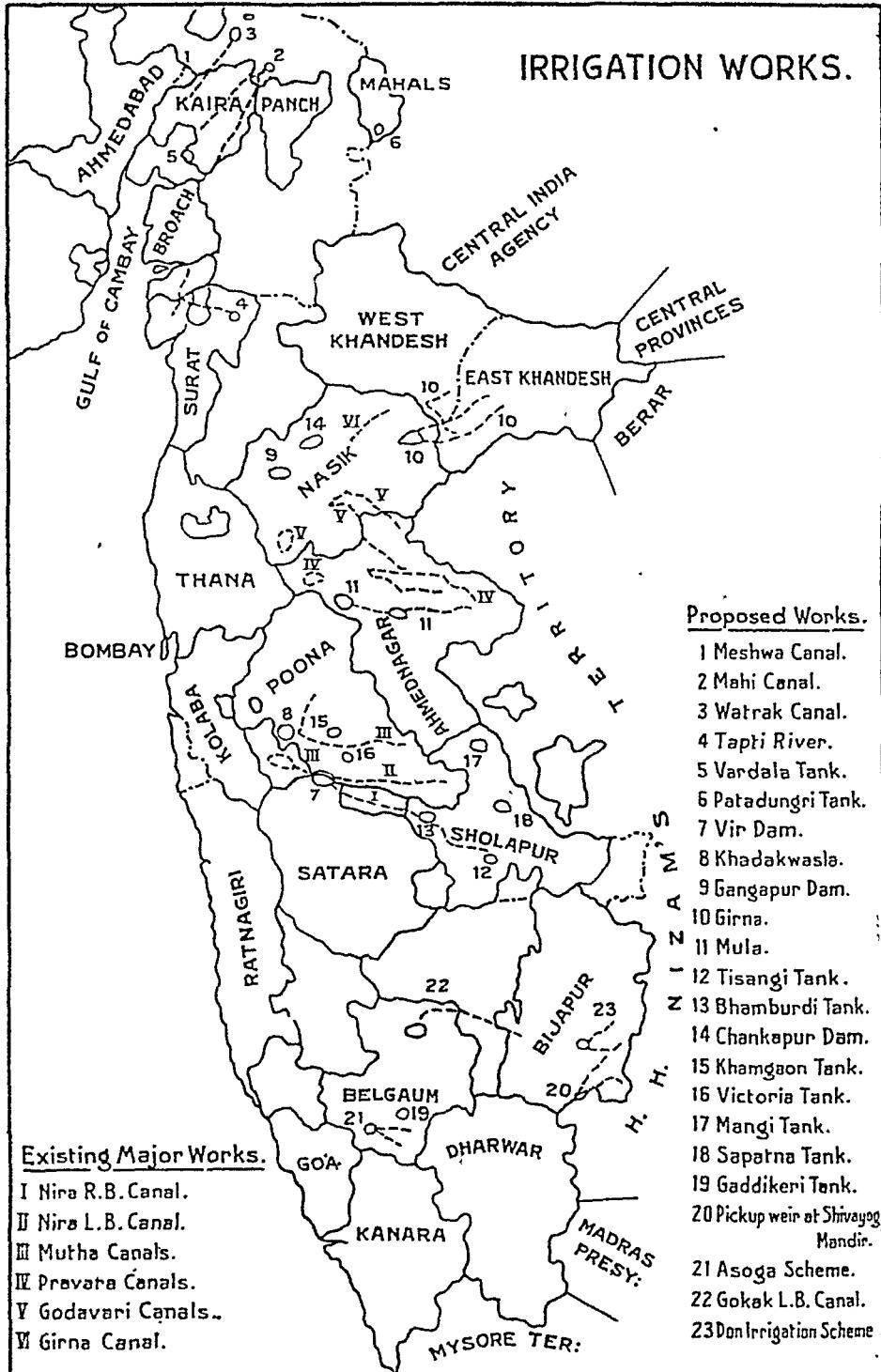
DISTRICTS WHICH HAVE
GIVEN MORE THAN FIVE
RECRUITS PER MILLE OF
THE POPULATION UP TO
31ST MARCH 1944



AREAS VERY LIABLE
TO FAMINE
(TAKEN FROM THE STATISTICAL ATLAS, 1925)



IRRIGATION WORKS.



In making this selection, the Government was influenced by three factors :

First, the "concentrated areas" must be distributed over various parts of the Province. At any rate it is necessary to experiment everywhere.

Secondly, it is necessary to pay special attention to the needs of certain areas in the Province—areas particularly liable to famine, areas where the soil is particularly unproductive and areas generally in need of development.

Thirdly, the "concentrated areas" should, as far as possible, correspond with the best recruiting areas. It must be remembered that the soldier is a member of the family, that anything done for his benefit helps his family and, in turn, his own village.

SPECIAL PRIORITY SCHEMES

For this development a great number of skilled workers will be required—to guide the agriculturists in better farming methods, to supervise the erection of buildings and the construction of roads, to lay out bunds and irrigation channels and to do all the other jobs entailed by nation-building activity of such magnitude. For the Agricultural Department alone, it is estimated, more than 3,000 recruits to the superior staff will be needed. Some of these men will be obtained from the Army, from among soldiers released either before or during general demobilisation. But the Army's contribution of such specialised workers cannot be large. The vast majority of the thousands of men needed will have to be found elsewhere—and they cannot be found unless they have previously been trained.

That is why Bombay is concentrating now on providing instructional staff. The training of specialised staff takes anything from twelve months to five years and, unless a beginning is made at once to supplement it, the outturn of instructors and superior staff will be hopelessly short of the demand. In the forefront of the fifteen-year plan, therefore, are eleven special priority schemes, ten of them to do with training of staff.

The Agricultural College at Poona is being expanded to enable it to admit 150 students in place of 100 annually. This will mean that, after three years, there will be some 70 to 80 agricultural graduates available each year instead of the present 40. The Manjri Training Centre at

Agricultural Training

Poona is to conduct 12-month diploma courses in agriculture and allied sciences on an essentially practical basis for 75 students to qualify them for posts as agricultural assistants and will simultaneously give similar training to 75 fieldmen.

In the Bijapur District a centre has already been established to train 200 students annually in land development, including the lay-out and construction of field contour bunds and trenches. Here there will be particular scope for returned soldiers with engineering and survey experience. At Sholapur arrangements are being made to start a course in scientific dry-farming methods, in which 100 students will be trained each year. Another scheme is under consideration for the vocational training of military instructors, who in turn will pass on their knowledge to soldier colleagues.

Co-operative and Medical Training The Co-operative Department is to have a staff training centre at Poona with, possibly, sub-centres at Dharwar and Surat. The medical authorities are arranging for the training of subsidised practitioners in sanitary and public health work to make them of greater assistance in combating epidemics and will expand facilities for teaching health officers and sanitary inspectors.

Engineering To meet the post-war need of many more engineers, the College of Engineering at Poona is to admit 50 more students to each of its degree and diploma courses. At the same time the Government will consider whether expansion of the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute in Bombay will contribute towards producing other technical personnel so badly needed, especially electricians for the proposed electrical grid scheme.

School Teachers As education will be an important feature in the "concentrated areas," the number of trained primary teachers has to be increased. This will be done by opening three training colleges, each of which will provide a two-year course to some 150 students. These should all be functioning by the middle of 1946 at latest. To ensure proper supervision by at least one inspecting officer for each 50 schools in the "concentrated areas," 105 additional posts of assistant deputy educational inspectors are being created—18 men and three women each year for five years.

The Bombay Veterinary College is to be expanded by the admission of 50 more students every year. Of allied interest is the only "special priority" scheme not solely concerned with staff—that of livestock improvement.

Veterinary :
Livestock

The cattle required for post-war years must be bred and reared now, so each year for five years 12 supplementary breeding centres are to be organised for the production of breeding stock and the improvement of the Khillar, Amrit Mahal and Kankrej breeds. Each centre will embrace five villages, in which 50 cows and five bulls will be placed with cultivators on the condition that the progeny is used for further distribution. The distribution of "premium bulls" and "premium cows" is to be increased—from 200 and 300 respectively a year now to 400 and 1,200 a year at the end of five years. Schemes for the improved production and storage of nutritious fodder in the main cattle-breeding areas are also being prepared.

ALL-PROVINCE SCHEMES

After the training plans come those schemes which are to be introduced throughout the Province, projects which meet pressing and basic needs and pave the way for further development. Agricultural pursuits, as the foundation of the Province's economy, naturally bulk large among them. But there is also emphasis on medical and public health measures, to which are devoted 11 out of the 27 schemes in this section, and on through communications by means of National and Provincial highways.

Since it is clear that no kind of improvement can be fully or successfully introduced until there is proper access to all parts of the Province, particularly the outlying villages, the Government will put the development of good roads communications in the forefront of its scheme.

A comprehensive scheme of building and improving roads, based on what is known as the "Nagpur Scheme," is to cost about Rs. 14½ crores during the first five-year period and Rs. 44 crores for the whole fifteen-year Plan. This scheme will also comprise a substantial increase in the width of all roads, involving considerable acquisition of land. When completed, it will have given 2,700 miles of national highways, 5,600 miles of provincial highways, 6,000 miles of major district roads, 10,000 miles of

minor district roads and 14,400 miles of village roads. Existing and proposed new mileages are :—

			Existing	New
National Highways	..	..	2,700	....
Provincial Highways	..	..	2,500	3,100
Major District Roads	..	..	3,000	3,000
Minor District Roads	..	..	2,250	7,750
Village Roads	..	..	....*	14,400

*The existing mileage of village roads is not known and the figure of 14,400 includes existing as well as new roads.

Intensified research work is the principal feature of the agricultural

Agricultural Research

programme, for it is only by scientific investigation that the yield and quality of the more important

crops can be improved. Nineteen research stations to be established in the cereal-growing tracts will devote their attention to the breeding and improvement of the principal types of such food crops—wheat, bajri, rice, jowar and the like. Nine sub-stations elsewhere will deal with pulse and oil-seed crops; and the Agri-Silvicultural Research Station at Sirsi will investigate problems connected with agricultural and garden crops in the up-ghat tracts of Kanara and forest growth in the same district. Experimental work will be conducted on the technique and economics of improved tillage methods, manurial and irrigational treatments and on more profitable crop rotations. Scientific investigations will be concentrated upon soil problems, including the reclamation of damaged and alkaline lands in Gujarat and the Karnatak.

Two more stations—one in the Northern Division and one in the Southern—will carry out research on crop diseases and serve as headquarters for a plant disease control staff. At other centres in the districts arrangements are being provided for entomological research work on the prevention and control of insect pests on crops and fruit trees and on the reduction of damage by insects to stored grain.

To enable the benefits of this research to be passed on to the farmer and to ensure that all knowledge possible is widely disseminated and applied, it is intended to strengthen the agricultural staff in the districts so that, at the end of five years, there will be one graduate agricultural officer in each prant and an agricultural assistant

in each taluka.* As the major part of its duties this increased staff will carry out comprehensive schemes for the multiplication and distribution of seed of improved crop varieties and for the introduction and extension of better farming methods.

In stages the Agricultural Debtors' Relief Act will be extended from the 16 talukas and petas where it is now in force to the whole Province and 42 new boards are proposed to be established very shortly. These will be located in the "concentrated areas" to some extent as well as in one or two talukas in every other district.

Agricultural
Debtors' Relief
Act

An immediate result of this extension will be expansion of the co-operative movement in those areas. The Government has agreed that co-operative societies should as far as possible be the agency to supply crop finance to the agriculturists, so the number and membership of societies will both have to be substantially increased and the supervising machinery strengthened. To link crop farming activities with marketing, it is intended to set up a net-work of co-operative sales organisations.

Co-operative
Societies

For the care of the agriculturists' animals the Government intends to increase the departmental veterinary staff and to assume full control of veterinary dispensaries. At present District Local Boards maintain dispensaries with financial assistance from the Government but, as the running of dispensaries is not obligatory on them and is dependent on local factors, more progress will be made possible by the Government assuming full responsibility. Besides this, it is proposed to establish an Animal Husbandry Research Station and to manufacture within the Province the sera and vaccines required for the treatment of animal diseases.

Animal
Husbandry

To the people's own health services great attention will be paid. But, here again, progress is dependent on doctors being available. Even though many medical men Medical Services will return to civil practice from the Army, there will not be enough. The first two medical development schemes,

* Prant means sub-division of the district. Taluka means sub-division of the prant.

therefore, are designed to produce more qualified doctors by converting the B. J. Medical Schools at Poona and Ahmedabad into medical colleges. Laboratory work generally will be stepped up by the creation of a cadre of laboratory and X-ray technicians who will all be graduates in science.

District Hospitals District hospitals are to be improved so that people in the mofussil will be able to secure all ordinary treatment near home and pressure on the big hospitals in Bombay and Poona will be reduced. Every mofussil hospital is to have at least 75 beds and, to augment their staff, medical men with higher qualifications will be encouraged to settle in district towns by the offer of posts of honorary surgeons or honorary physicians carrying appropriate honoraria. Each hospital will be given a motor ambulance.

Cottage Hospitals Smaller hospitals away from the district headquarters will be provided by converting dispensaries into cottage hospitals. Such institutions have already been opened in the Poona, Ahmedabad, Ahmednagar, Ratnagiri and Kanara Districts and it is intended to have at least two in every district. Local dispensaries themselves will be improved so that full advantage can be taken of their beds for in-patients: the Government will give them all a grant towards the pay of staff and the cost of patients' food.

Subsidised Doctors General medical attention in rural areas will be increased by appointing 100 more subsidised medical practitioners, for the 330 subsidised centres previously sanctioned have been a boon to the country people. Fifty more nurse-midwives will be added to the 81 whose appointments at District Local Board Dispensaries have already been approved.

Industrial Diseases In Bombay city attention will be given to industrial diseases and hazardous occupations by the setting up of a Department of Industrial Medicine in the J. J. Hospital. The officer in charge will be expected gradually to develop machinery to deal with problems of industrial psychology and fatigue.

Another development in the city will be in the field of industrial education—the inauguration at the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute at Matunga of degree courses in such subjects as textiles and sanitary engineering. Ordinary education under this section of the development plan calls for the appointment of 85 more assistant deputy inspectors—70 men and 15 women.

Industrial Education

With the prospect of extensive road development it is expected that motor transport will grow considerably in volume in the post-war years and it is, therefore, proposed to rationalise the organisation of motor transport with a view to greater public convenience and the co-ordination of road transport with other means of communications. The formation of larger units of operation in the passenger transport services will be encouraged in place of single owner-drivers or smaller units, and efforts will also be made to develop transport in neglected areas. An attempt will be made to absorb in the transport services as many returned soldiers as possible.

Motor Transport

An integral part of the Government's plan will be an electrical grid system, which aims at linking up and amplifying all sources of electricity so as to increase the use of electricity throughout the Province, cheapening the rates and, in particular, making it available to rural areas, agriculture and small industries. As an off-shoot this scheme may have a synthetic ammonium sulphate factory providing cheap manure for the Province's farmers.

Electric Grid

PARTICULAR AREA SCHEMES

The wider and more efficient use of manure is one objective among the Agricultural Department's schemes to be applied in particular areas—the third section of the complete development plan. Three main lines of work are proposed. One is the introduction and expansion of organic manuring by better conservation of farmyard manure, by the scientific preparation of compost and by the increased cultivation of green manure crops. The second is the extended use of cake manures with rice, vegetables and other suitable crops;

and the third the increased and economical use of inorganic fertilisers in selected areas. Another scheme provides for the extension of improved agricultural implements; and the Department has also prepared large-scale plans for the construction of new wells and tanks and for the improvement of such existing sources of crop irrigation on a subsidy basis, as has been done during the "Grow More Food" campaign.

District Nurseries Fruit and vegetable growing is to be encouraged wherever conditions are suitable. District nurseries will provide the young plants and give training to 200 cultivators and *malis* every year while two district sub-stations undertake research. For full utilisation of the crops, experiments will be made into the possibility of manufacturing preserves and other fruit products.

Cattle-Breeding Farms Localised livestock improvement projects include the establishment of a breeding farm for the Gir breed of cattle in Poona district and two for the Dangi breed in the Ratnagiri and Nasik districts. At present there are no Government farms for these useful types of animals. Sheep-breeding sub-stations will be opened in Khandesh and Surat, whose important breeds deserve attention. Nasik, Satara and Surat will be given poultry-breeding stations.

Co-operative Advancement Co-operative advancement includes the organisation of district industrial associations for handloom weaving and other cottage and subsidiary industries and of a Provincial Industrial Federation to co-ordinate their activities. Co-operative creameries will be established in the Belgaum, Satara, East and West Khandesh and Dharwar Districts, each with an attendant ring of five to ten cream-separating units to collect milk from the villages. Milk supply unions will be established in urban areas where there is a keen consumer demand and will have their feeder societies in the surrounding countryside. The first of these will be in Ahmedabad and subsequent ones in Belgaum, Deolali, Nasik, Hubli and Sholapur. Plans for the reorganisation and rationalising of the Bombay City milk supply will also be undertaken.

In forest areas rehabilitation work will be undertaken to repair the situation caused by excess felling of timber for war needs. Roads damaged by the heavy war-time traffic will be reconstructed and new ones built; and better water supplies and other amenities will be arranged for the forest staffs.

Forest Rehabilitation

Public health schemes for the "particular area" section are not numerous but, naturally, are of great importance. A district health organisation, with a health officer in charge, will be introduced into every district then still without one, and in malarious talukas special parties of trained workers will investigate the conditions responsible for the disease and institute control measures. A permanent anti-plague organisation will be set up to deal with endemic centres and areas susceptible to infection from outside the Province.

Public Health

Industry, urban and cottage, will benefit by a supply of graduates from industrial schools to be founded in Satara, Hubli and Bijapur and from the R. C. Technical Institute in Ahmedabad, which is to be reorganised to make it of greater use to the textile trade. Altogether, these four institutions will train 618 pupils a year.

Industrial Graduates

The existing apprentice scheme will be introduced and expanded in towns wherever there are facilities until 750 men a year are being trained. Away at sea, coastal fisheries will be developed with motor craft and modern nets.

In the field of labour, machinery will be set up for the extension to factories of the Payment of Wages Act, including the appointment of trade boards to regulate minimum wages. Operation of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act for the settlement of trade disputes will be extended to cover more industries.

Labour

Amenities for the working classes in industrial areas will be increased and improved. Broach, Barsi, Amalner, Viramgam, Surat, Jalgaon, Dhulia, Nadiad, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Hubli and Bombay City will have new welfare centres, and more reading rooms and circulating library posts will be opened. The Government Industrial Training Workshop at Ahmedabad will

double its seating capacity and a similar workshop will be opened at Sholapur.

Irrigation works are estimated to cost Rs. 14 crores during the 15 years—Rs. 3·5 crores in the first five-year period, Irrigation Rs. 4·7 crores in the second and Rs. 5·8 crores in the third. The actual works to be undertaken have still to be selected, but among the bigger items in a list prepared by the Public Works Department are the Girna project in Khandesh (Rs. 4 crores), the Mula project in Ahmednagar (Rs. 3·96 crores), the Vir dam project in Poona and Sholapur Districts (Rs. 1·67 crores) and the Gokak Left Bank canal scheme in Belgaum (Rs. 30 lakhs).

Another big responsibility of the Public Works Department will be the construction of public health works, on Water Supply which Rs. 4·30 crores will be spent in ten years.

They include water supply schemes for Dharwar and Hubli, Belgaum, Ahmednagar, Badlapur and Bombay Suburbs, Surat, Pandharpur, Poona and Kirkee, Nipani, Nadiad and Godhra and drainage systems for Surat, Ghatkopar, Jalgaon and the Bombay Suburbs.

“ CONCENTRATED AREA ” SCHEMES

Some of these works will be in the “concentrated areas”—the fourth component of the plan. Besides these benefits and amenities coming from projects applied throughout the Province, these “concentrated areas” will have many special schemes of their own. Those selected for development during any five-year period are to be completely improved at the end of that time.

Rural Development Centres will be established, if possible, in each district. These will provide demonstrations in improved methods of agriculture, crops, cultivation, livestock, etc., and also courses for the training of those agriculturists who wish to learn more about modern improvements, cottage industries, agricultural machinery, and the like. It is proposed that special arrangements should be made for demobilised soldiers to be trained here, both for the care of their own lands and as rural reconstruction agents in villages.

In particular, the scheme should include instruction of the soldiers' wives and families in such matters as sanitation, hygiene and domestic economy. The details are still under discussion with Government of India.

Many more taluka demonstration centres upon which agricultural improvements can be demonstrated on the cultivators' own lands will be established, the object being to provide one within easy reach of each farmer. Improved agricultural implements and other farming equipment will be made readily available on easy terms at these centres. It is proposed also to establish a tractor section, which will undertake seasonal tillage operations in areas where there is a shortage of plough bullocks in order to increase food production. The tractors will be equipped for the deep ploughing of lands infested with deep-rooted weeds and for the breaking up of new lands.

Great emphasis is to be placed on the development and improvement of agricultural, forest and waste lands in areas most liable to famine and scarcity. This will entail big extension of works designed to check soil erosion and to ensure that fullest use is made of the rainfall, such as large-scale contour bunding on units of complete watersheds, gully-plugging and, on forest and waste lands, contour trenching and re-afforestation. In addition scientific methods of dry farming, based on the successful experiments at the Dry Farming Research Stations at Sholapur and Bijapur, will be put into practice in the contour-bunded cultivated areas. There is already in hand work for the development of 500,000 acres in the Bijapur, Dharwar, Belgaum, Sholapur, Poona, Ahmednagar and Satara Districts and this will be intensified to cover at least 1,000,000 acres a year at the end of five years.

The measures to be taken in developing agricultural, forest and waste lands in the Konkan will be largely dependent on the results of experiments being made this year in the Ratnagiri district. The aim is to check the rapid run-off of rain water and so increase the water-holding capacity of the higher lands, prevent erosion and facilitate the conversion of the lower *varkas** lands into rice

Checking
Erosion

* "Varkas" means land growing grass or crops other than rice in rice growing areas.

cultivation or, possibly, double-cropping. This work will be chiefly in the Ratnagiri district, while reclamation of coastal areas will largely be done in the Kolaba and Bombay Suburban Districts.

As everywhere throughout the Province the scattered nature of holdings is a handicap to the effecting of agricultural improvements

Consolidation of Holdings besides being a drag on the farmer's prosperity, the Co-operative Department will organise in the "concentrated areas" societies for the consolidation of holdings. It will also help in the establishment of a network of regulated markets for local produce and ancillary co-operative sales societies.

Safeguarding Stock More attention will be given to the farmers' livestock. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in India estimated that,

properly controlled, one veterinary assistant surgeon was needed for every 25,000 head of cattle. In the "concentrated areas" there are approximately 3,725,000 cattle and buffaloes and only 49 veterinary assistant surgeons. One hundred more assistant surgeons, therefore, are required and will be appointed at the rate of 20 a year. To make them of more general use, at least half of the veterinary dispensaries will be made mobile.

As ticks menace cattle improvement and also damage the hides, the dipping of animals will be extended. This will be mainly in the Maval and Konkan areas, where it is planned to open five new dipping tanks a year.

More Nurses For the care of the sick, the "concentrated areas" will be given 16 cottage hospitals, 47 more subsidised medical practitioners and 24 more nurse-midwives. Child welfare and maternity centres will be set up and, to provide a bigger supply of nurses, a branch of the College of Nursing will be established at Satara to train about 60 Marathi-speaking students a year. Village water supply and drainage and sanitation systems will be improved; and two more health units will be formed to carry on intensive public health work and give field training to the regular Public Health staff and country doctors.

Education will gradually be made free and compulsory, throughout the "concentrated areas." But, as this will depend on an adequate supply of teachers, eight training colleges for primary teachers—five for men and three for women—will be opened. These institutions, which will be additional to the three "special priority" colleges, will turn out 640 trained teachers a year.

Education

Primary schools will be opened in some 650 school-less villages with a population of 400 and over and, to encourage women's education, 38 hostels for girls will be set up, attached to girls' full grade primary schools. Proper school buildings will be constructed and the children given play-grounds.

Besides those already in existence, 20 agricultural bias schools and four agricultural high schools will be opened. Two technical high schools will also be provided. To facilitate the education of soldiers' children it is proposed to establish 20 hostels in the main recruiting areas by the time the war is over.

Cottage industries will be encouraged by all possible means. Peripatetic teaching parties will give instruction in cotton and wool weaving, tanning and other crafts.

Cottage Industries

An industries section, devoted to the making of farm implements and articles with a definite marketable value, will be established in two of the "Rural Development Headquarters," probably at Satara and Ratnagiri.

In the villages themselves, new or repaired *chavdi*s* will serve as centres of public life. Villages which have given more than 50 recruits will have recreation centres,

Recreation Centres

containing a club house, gymnasium, library and reading room: these, it is believed, will be of particular value to ex-soldiers.

BUILDINGS

The whole of this reconstruction scheme requires a large number of buildings, so that during the fifteen years the Public Works Department will have to undertake a building construction programme costing anything up to Rs. 7 crores. Among the items are the new Civil Hospital at Ahmedabad, reconstruction of the J. J. Hospital and Grant Medical College in Bombay, new Government Offices in Poona and 4,000 single-room tenements for industrial workers in Bombay.

*A "chavdi" is a village meeting hall and office.

CONCLUSION

On these works and in all the other schemes many thousands of men will be employed. Many will be returned soldiers. Innumerable other soldiers will benefit from the application of improvement plans to their ancestral lands. The complete scheme, by focussing the initial portion of reconstruction activities in the recruiting areas, will go a long way to assisting in the resettlement of soldiers and their orderly and rapid re-absorption into civil life. But that is only one of its two objects: the other is the improvement of every aspect of the Province's social, economic and cultural life, both rural and urban.

It should be clearly understood that this plan is by no means in the nature of an unalterable blue-print. It serves to define the Government's aims, but no finality is claimed for either outline or details. Further consideration or altered circumstances may—and doubtless will—necessitate considerable modification in the details of individual schemes; while in respect of the plan as a whole there are several limiting factors, e.g., staff, material and, not least, finance.

Regarding the last, the Government of Bombay has instituted a Post-war Reconstruction Fund which, at the close of the year 1944-45, is expected to amount to Rs. 7 crores. That will, of course, need to be considerably supplemented. Recourse may be had to either taxation or borrowing, or to both. Financial help may be forthcoming from the Central Government. While it is emphasized that the figure of about Rs. 50 crores estimated to be required for the first five years of the plan must at present be regarded as no more than a target, the Government of Bombay has every reason to hope that it will be possible to finance a plan of the cost contemplated.

PROPOSED NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

